



Masataka SATÔ at Saleui in
Northeastern Laos,
20 May 2005
(Photo Tatsuya NIISATO)

In Memoriam Masataka SATÔ (8 Apr. 1937 – 9 Aug. 2006)

Masataka SATÔ, one of the distinguished coleopterologists in Japan, died on 9th August, 2006, after half a year of struggle against cancer. His untimely death has brought to a halt many activities in Japanese coleopterology and nature conservation.

SATÔ retired from Nagoya Women's University at the end of March 2003. His biography before that time was already published by OHBAYASHI at the head of the Special Bulletin of the Japanese Society of Coleopterology, No. 6 (2003), which was dedicated to SATÔ under the subtitle "Satonius". After retirement, he pursued his own path and lived his life to the full. Only within three years from 2003 to 2005, he visited the Ryukyus four times, Taiwan four times, mainland China twice, Palau of the Micronesia once, Laos four times, Cambodia once, and Nepal once. In the latter half of this period, however, he was often aware of uneasy physical condition near the end of long trips.

At the very beginning of 2006, SATÔ began to complain appetite loss, malaise and feverish feeling. On January 10, he consulted his home doctor and was soon carried to a larger hospital at which he was diagnosed as having an obstructive jaundice. A complete medical evaluation made in the hospital revealed pancreatic cancer involving lower bile duct, and he underwent a major abdominal operation for nine hours on February 24. Postoperative progress was not favourable and he still suffered from fever, abdominal pain and lower-back pain for the following several weeks. Fortunately,

however, his condition once took a turn for the better at the end of March, and he was given a permission to leave hospital on March 24. For the four ensuing months, his respite seemed to be holding, but the condition began to take a turn for the worse from the end of July and he was admitted to the hospital again on August 1. It was on August 9, 2006 that he died from carcinomatous peritonitis at the age of sixty-nine.

SATÔ had a special gift for friendship, making and keeping friends at all stages of his life. He will be widely missed by his friends, who extend to his widow Sumiko, and daughters and sons, their warmest sympathy in this tragical loss.

(Shun-Ichi UÉNO and Yûki IMURA)